

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-4 (Cancelled).

5. (Previously Presented) A composition comprising a curable silicone composition and a silver-based powder surface-treated with an oxidation inhibitor.

6. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 5, where the silver-based powder is surface-treated with the oxidation inhibitor by a mechanochemical reaction.

7. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 5, where the oxidation inhibitor is a phenol-based compound, hindered phenol-based compound, or triazole-based compound.

8. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 5, where the curable silicone composition is curable with a hydrosilylation reaction.

9. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 8, comprising:

(A) 100 parts by weight of an organopolysiloxane having at least two alkenyl groups per molecule;

(B) an organopolysiloxane having at least two silicon-bonded hydrogen atoms per molecule, where component (B) is present in an amount sufficient to provide silicon-bonded hydrogen atoms in an amount of 0.5 to 5 per one alkenyl group of component (A);

(C) 50 to 2,000 parts by weight of the silver-based powder, surface-treated with the oxidation inhibitor, for each 100 parts by weight of component (A); and

(D) a platinum catalyst in an amount required for promoting the hydrosilylation reaction.

10. (Previously Presented) Use of the composition of claim 5 as an electroconductive adhesive agent, heat-radiating adhesive agent, electroconductive die-bonding agent, heat-radiating die-bonding agent, electroconductive paste, heat-radiating paste, electromagnetic shielding agent, or raw material for manufacturing an electroconductive sheet, heat-radiating sheet, or electromagnetic-wave absorption sheet.

Claims 11-16 (Cancelled).

17. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 5, where the oxidation ~~initiator~~ inhibitor is present in an amount of 0.01 to 2 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of the silver-based powder.

18. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 9, where the silver-based powder, surface-treated with the oxidation inhibitor, is present in an amount of 300 to 600 parts by weight for each 100 parts by weight of component (A).

Please add the following new claim:

19. (New) The composition of claim 5, where the silver-based powder is surface-treated with an oxidation inhibitor prior to introduction into the composition.